

October 1, 2019

R1 CAC Meeting Notes

Attending

CAC: Jessie Walthers, Sandy Burch, Erik Browne, Angie Tennison, Danielle Coffman, Clifford Kipp, Sue Corrigan, Amy Jacobs, Kyle Smalley, Bill Swagger, Cheryl Bowland, Jessica Shaw

FWP: Dillon Tabish, Jim Williams, Commissioner Aldrich, Neil Anderson, Mike Hensler, Martha Abbrescia

OTHER: Larry Lack, Charles Abell, Jerry Smalley

Presentation

Neil Anderson presents “Chronic Wasting Disease in Montana”

Roundtable & Possible Meeting Topics

- Recreational pressure is on our radar due to population growth. Educating humans to live more harmoniously with the wildlife, understanding that we are in their habitat.
- Cheat Grass Treatment project on Wild Horse Island. Excited about long-term sustainable solution. Habitat – how can we best share our ecosystem with the animals?
- CWD is a hot topic to learn more about. Recreation issues in general, river access, trails, would be a good topic to talk about. Spear-fishing, why so strict on this? – why isn't this a more available option? Supreme Court case Herrera vs Wyoming – more information on Treaty rights would be helpful. Bison management is stickier than grizzly bear management.
- Wolves, where are they and why are we buying licenses for them? Grizzly bears, every mauling confirms the need to delist. What would it take to get Hunter Ed into the school systems? Snagging for salmon... the fish are bigger now than in years past.
- Trails can be built that respect all voices regarding habitat, animals, environment. Is FWP involved in MDT projects, etc. More information on how public opinion works with FWP. Historical nuggets of how change has happened throughout the years of FWP. American Prairie Reserve issue is life or death for many, would be interested in getting more education about it.
- How are the Fishing regulations being received by the public? State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – comment until October 17, Roads in GNP can comment until October 6. Attended the Crown of the Continent Round Table Conservation Conference, proud to be a part of this group while in attendance. Another point of pride was the press that State Parks got for the Big Arm Project. Preserving Big Arm is a big win in regard to 1 mile of shoreline staying with public access. Perspective on bike & bears – would be happy to be part of this. Bison as a stock animal vs a wild animal would be interesting.

- Apples going down to feed the bears is a great idea. Sue Corrigan is on the SD#5 board of trustees regarding the hunter education topic. Multiple use of trails, eBikes, how does all this go together? Need more information. Wild Horse Island and the Cheat Grass is a great conversation. How is Canadian Mining affecting our rivers and wildlife? Northfork River use management.
- MT Outdoors Magazine is outstanding – so glad to be receiving that as part of this group. Lead Fishing tackle would be a great conversation. (Side note: The Hooked-on Fishing Program is now lead-free). Disabled hunting access has basically fallen off the table due to it being a “low-priority” for the USFS ---this ia a great program that needs to stay intact. Licensing issues for dirt bikes and boats would be useful. Dogs dying in green algae bloom... is this a real thing, or just a social media rumor?
- Leisure Island access – who has jurisdiction? eBikes – have seen 3 behind gates just since archery season. AIS, are we spreading it with moving decoys & blinds around?
- Possibility of developing a state park in north Lincoln County? Reports of feral hogs coming into the Tobacco Valley from Canada. Can these be treated like varmits? Don’t want them to get established. Can people who will meet criteria for a reduced license during the license year be allowed to get the discount earlier in the year?
- AIS including hogs and snails. Bird Populations – how important they are to MT. Bumble bees.